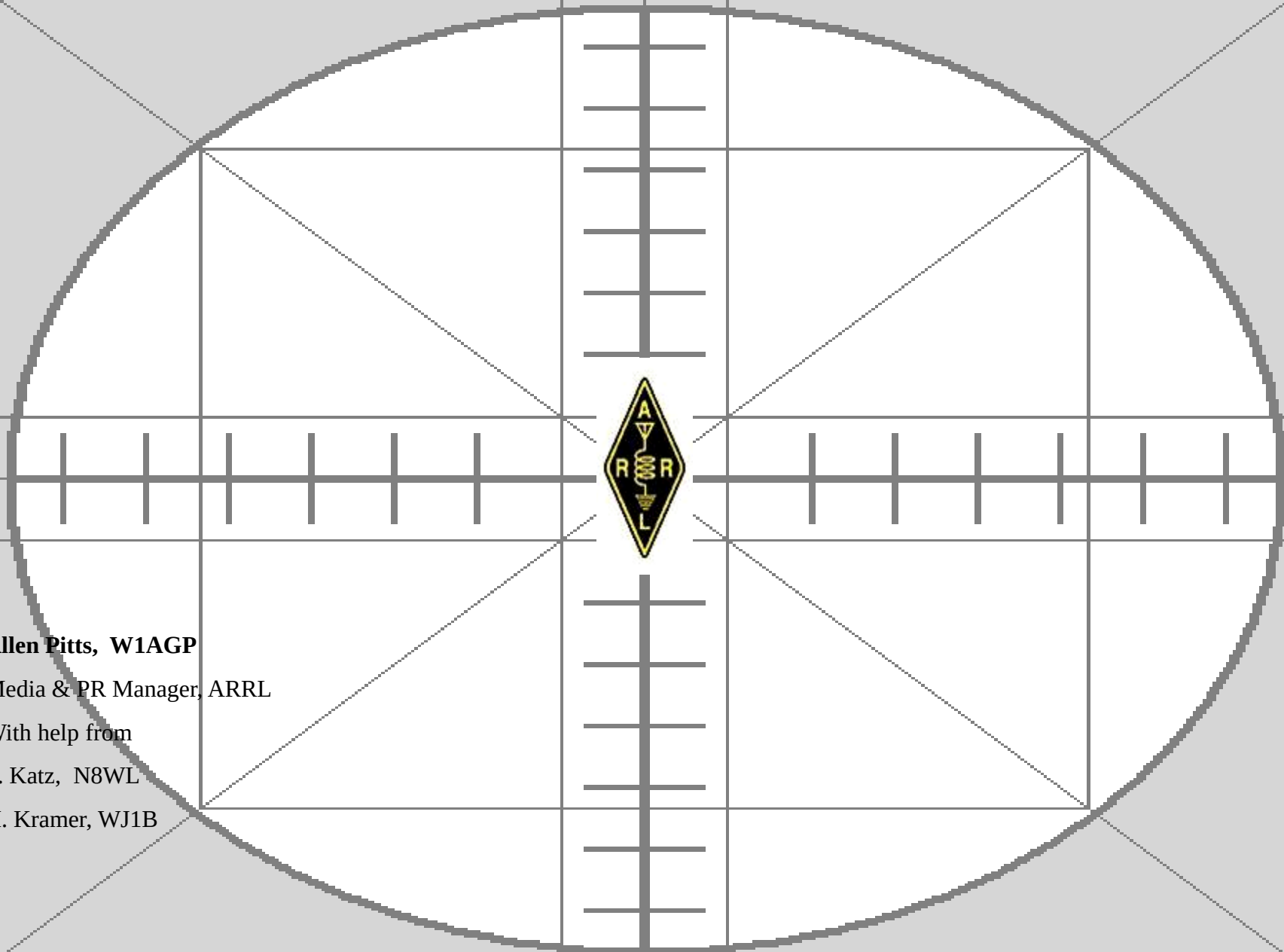




Allen Pitts, W1AGP

Media & PR Manager, ARRL

With help from

S. Katz, N8WL

H. Kramer, WJ1B

Amateur Radio...



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www.emergency-radio.org

Amateur Radio

- *Often called “ham radio”*
- *Has consistently been the most reliable means of communication in emergencies*



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“Amateur”

- *ám’e-túr – noun*
- *A person who engages in an art, science or other activity purely for the personal interest or self-improvement value of it, rather than a financially compensated profession*
 - *Amateur athlete*
 - *Amateur astronomer*
 - *Amateur musician*



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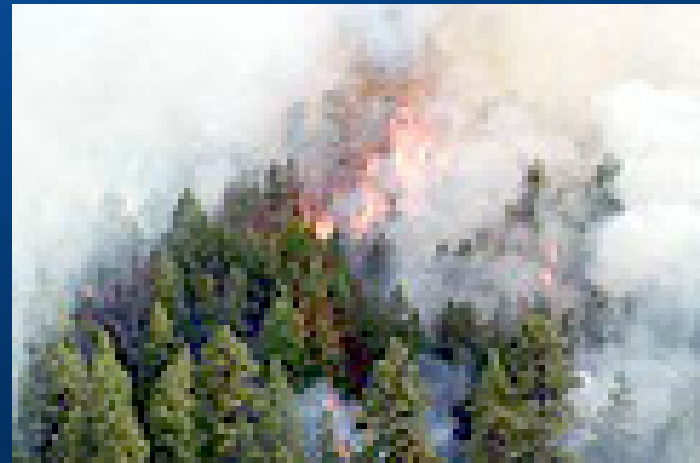
Simply put – ham radio works!

- *Most of the time things work fine*
- *Despite the development of complex systems – or maybe because they ARE so complex – ham radio has been called into action again and again to provide communications when it really matters*



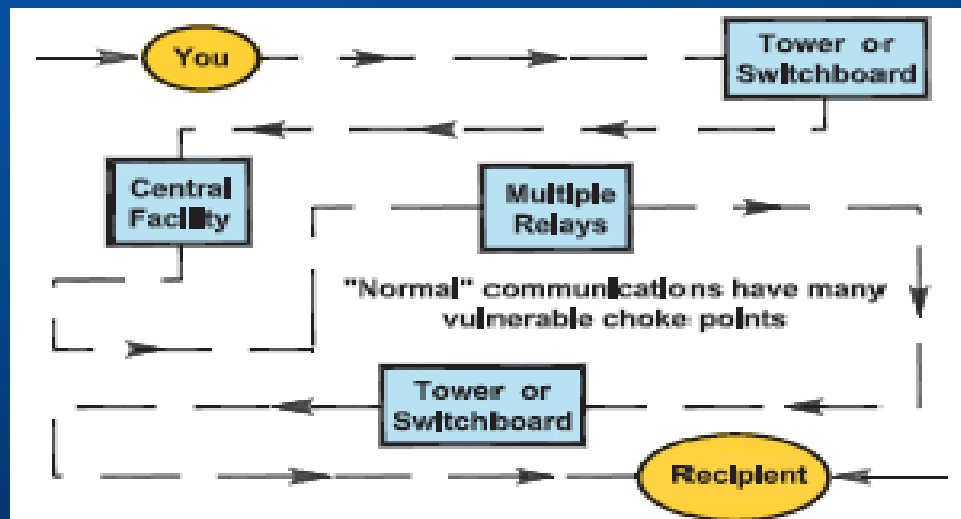
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Conventional communications systems

- *Telephones, cell phones, Internet, trunk lines, and satellite phones all go through many vulnerable choke points*

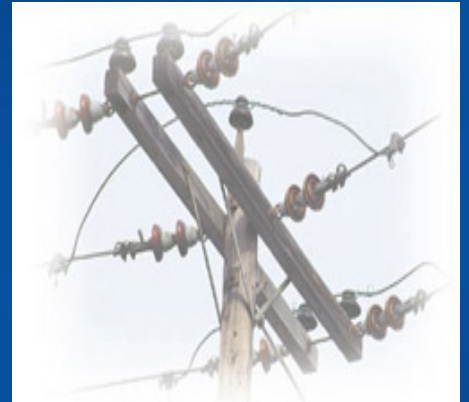


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Other reasons they may fail

- *They need electrical power*
- *Even when functioning, they can be overwhelmed with cries for help and families seeking information*

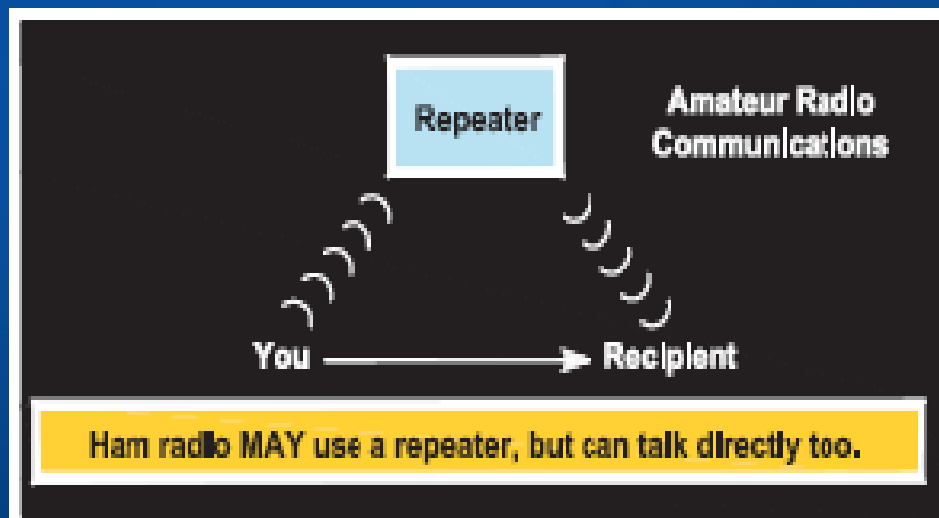


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Ham Radio is different

- Hams can “go direct” and talk straight to each other without intervening infrastructure*



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*By selecting the right frequencies
Hams can talk across town or
around the world*



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In an emergency...

*When your family's lives may be
at risk...*

*which communications system
would YOU want to have?*



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Every year hams help out

- *Texas Wildfires 2011*
- *Haiti 2010*
- *Katrina, Wilma and Rita 2005*
- *TX, OK, NM wildfires 2005*
- *Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne 2004*
- *Asian tsunami 2004*
- *Central CA earthquake 2003*
- *Isabel 2003*



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KD5NWJ

and...

- *NE blackout 2003*
- *Shuttle Columbia Recovery 2003*
- *CO wildfires 2002*
- *KY flooding 2002*
- *Terror attacks 9/11/2001*
- *TWA plane crash 1996*
- *OK City bombing 1995*
- *And many, many others*



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National Weather Service

- *Relies on ham radio operators*
- *SKYWARN program*
- *Ground level reports*
- *Radar can't see everything*



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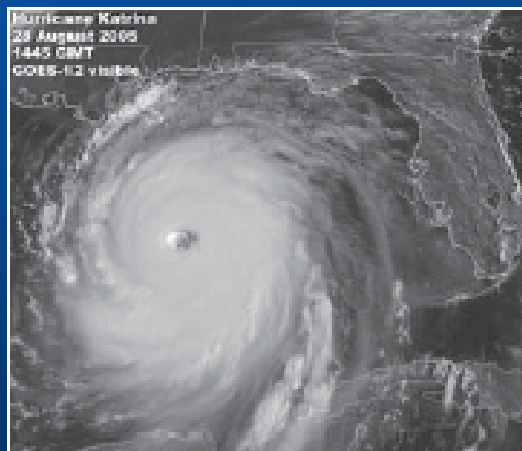


National Hurricane Center

- *Miami, FL*
- *Relies on ham radio*
- *Has station WX4NHC*
- *Receives reports from hams in affected areas on the HWN*



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Hundreds of hams...



- *Volunteered for service to the devastated areas of the Gulf Coast after Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma pounded 5 states and destroyed other communications systems*
- *Received commendations from President and Congress for their meritorious work*



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Within minutes of the 9/11 terrorist attacks...

- *Ham operators communicated from emergency operations centers as other system failed*
- *They continued for weeks to handle emergency and other important messages for*
 - *Disaster and government agencies*
 - *Displaced families*

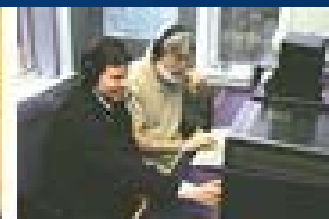
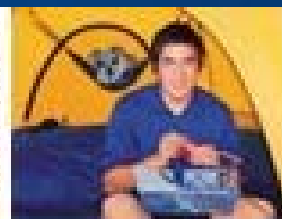
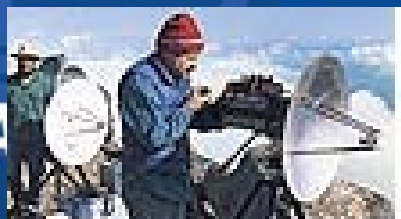
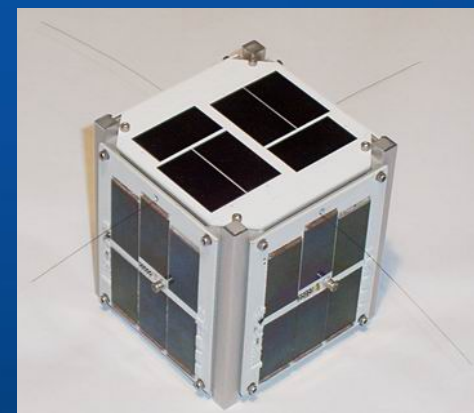


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Hams stay prepared

- *When there isn't an emergency, hams use all sorts of radios and antennas on many different frequencies to communicate with other hams*
 - *Across town*
 - *Around the state*
 - *Around the country*
 - *Around the world*
 - *Even outer space!*



They use amateur radio

- *For personal enjoyment*
- *For keeping in touch with friends and family*
- *For public service events*
 - *Races*
 - *Parades*
 - *Public events*
- *For experimenting with technology*



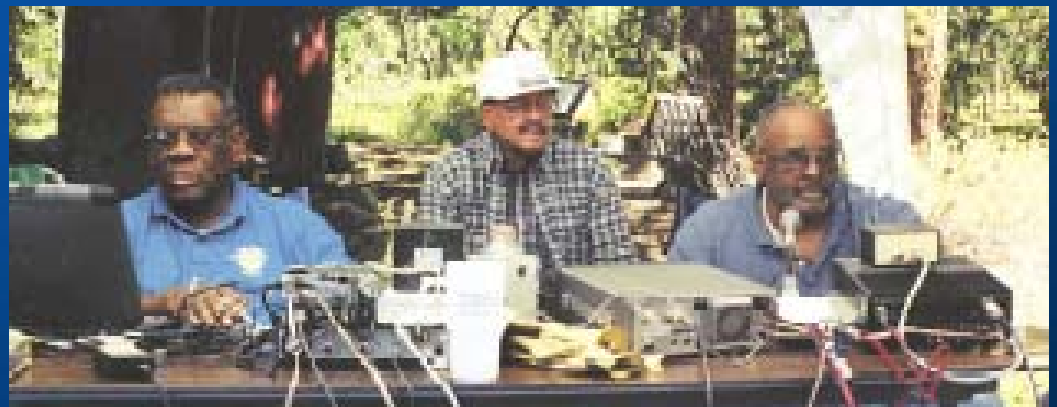
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Hams...

- *Meet on the air and in person*
- *680,000 hams in the USA*
- *Ham radio clubs and gatherings all over the country*



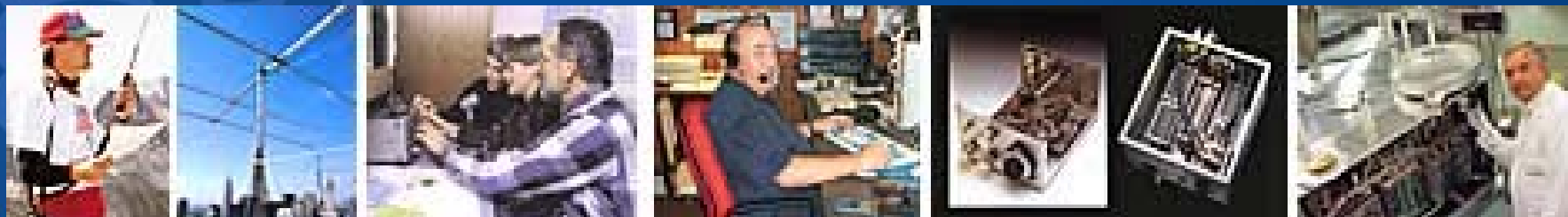
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Ham radio



- *Has been around for over a century*
- *Has grown into a worldwide community of licensed operators* (approx. 2.5M)
- *Uses every conceivable means of communications technology*

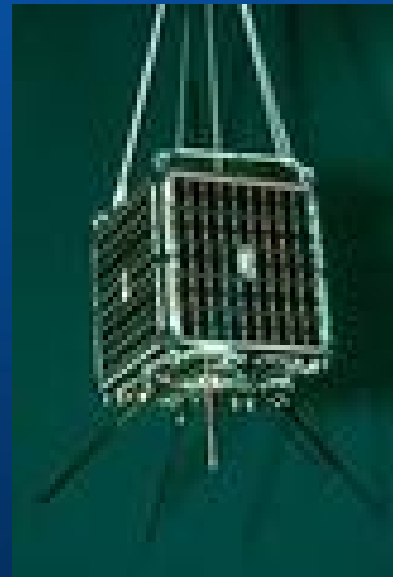


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Hams communicate in many ways

- *Microphones (voice)*
- *Telegraph (Morse Code)*
- *Computers*
- *TV Cameras*
- *Amateur Radio Satellites*



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Ham radio

- Attracts those who have never held a microphone to*
- The technical expert who grew up with a computer*
- Even rocket scientists and rock stars are in the ham ranks!*



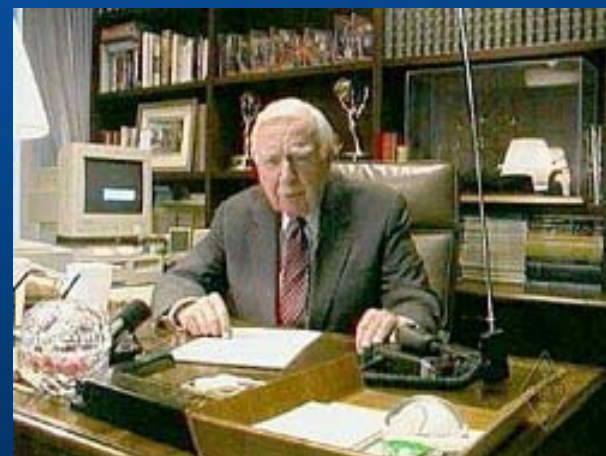
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Some famous hams...

- *Joe Walsh*
WB6ACU of the
rock group, The
Eagles
- *News anchor*
Walter Cronkite
KB2GSD



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More famous hams...

- *Senator Barry Goldwater (Rep. AZ) K7UGA*
- *King Hussein of Jordan, JY1*



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But most hams...

- *Are just normal folks who*
 - *Transmit voice, data, and pictures through the airwaves*
 - *Use the Internet, lasers, and microwave transmitters, satellites, and TV*
 - *Range in age from youngsters to great grandparents*

Clarence Hollow - Age 91



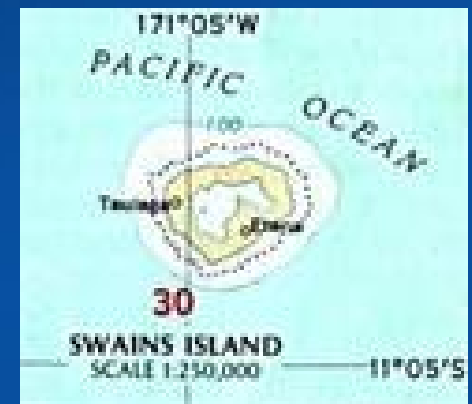
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Ham travelers use it

- *Boaters*
- *RV-ers*
- *Outdoor enthusiasts*
- *All find it an excellent way to maintain communications wherever they are*



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And...

- *Some hams even travel to unusual places near and far just to make contacts on the air*



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Big station or small and portable



- *Hams enjoy the security of knowing they can get a message through*
- *In almost any situation*
- *Without depending on a fragile infrastructure*
 - *Which can fail*
 - *Or become overloaded and unusable*



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FEMA advises...

- In a crisis, you should plan to be totally on your own for at least 3 days*
- How will you communicate?*



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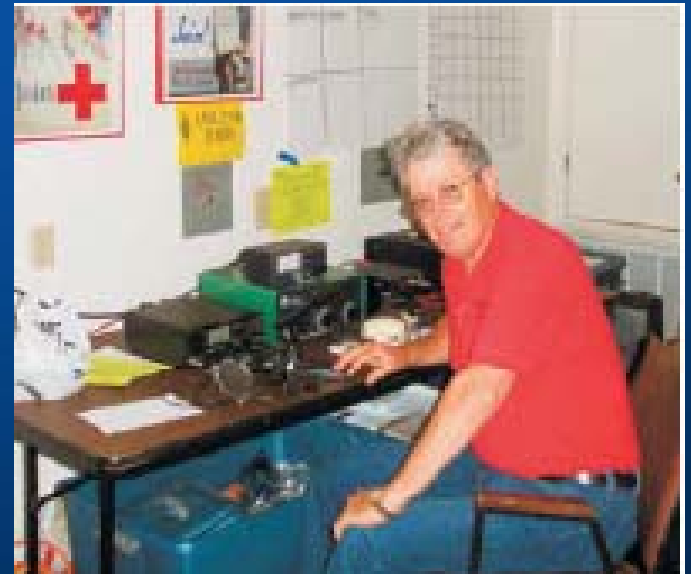
You can have this capability

- *For yourself*
- *For your friends*
- *For your family*



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Getting your own ham license



- *License is necessary*
- *FCC regulates Amateur Service*
- *Morse code testing no longer required*
- *Three license levels*



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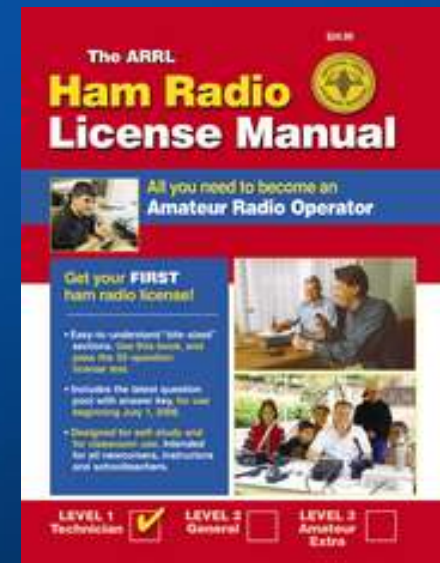
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You don't buy it – you EARN it

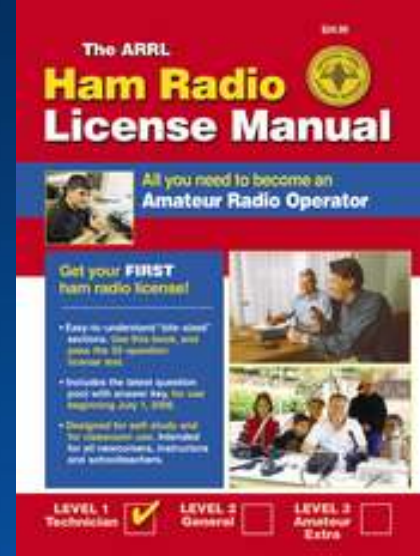
- *Entry level license is easy*
 - *Takes a week or two of study*
- *On your own*
 - *Study books*
 - *Online courses*
- *Groups and classes*
 - *Local clubs*



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Costs



- *About \$40 in books and fees*
- *About \$200 for first radio and other gear*
- *Used equipment is available, too*



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Join ARES



- *Amateur Radio Emergency Service*
- *Must have ham radio license*
- *Continually learn about emergency communications*



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Make friends and enjoy the challenge!

- *Practice regularly*
 - *On-the-air “nets” or networks*
 - *Public events*
 - *Drills and simulated emergencies*



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ARES



- *Has formal national agreements to provide emergency communications for*
 - FEMA
 - Citizen Corps - DHS
 - American Red Cross
 - Salvation Army
 - Many other organizations



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American Radio Relay League

- The national association for amateur radio*
- Founded in 1914*
- Headquarters in Newington, CT*
- 156,000 members strong*
- Primary source of ham radio information in the US*



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ARRL provides

- Books, magazines and other printed matter
- Web site www.arrl.org
- News and information bulletins on the air
- Continuing education classes
- Support
- Information
 - Individuals
 - Clubs
- Many other benefits



Simply stated...

- *Ham radio provides the broadest and most powerful wireless communications capability available to any private citizen anywhere in the world*



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Where do you start?

- *www.emergency-radio.org*
- *www.arrl.org*
- *You can also find more information on our local clubs at*
– *www.arrl.org/findaclub*



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With thanks to...

– YOU, the audience!



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Questions?



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